

What is claimed is:

1. A system for dispensing optical storage media from a kiosk remote from a system server and communicatively connected to said system server, said system comprising:
  - a first processor in said kiosk;
  - a first set of instructions for directing said first processor to:
    - receive a request for an optical storage media and billing information from a user,
    - transmit said billing information to said system server for confirmation,
    - receive said confirmation of billing from said central server, and
    - dispense said requested optical storage media to said user;
  - a first media readable by said first processor for storing said first set of instructions;
  - a second processor in said system server;
  - a second set of instructions for directing said second processor to:
    - receive said billing information from said first server,
    - perform a credit verification routine on a credit account in said billing information,
    - transmit said confirmation to said first processor responsive to a verification of credit account, and
    - transmit an electronic receipt for said transaction to a user specified address in said billing information; and
  - a second media readable by said second processor for storing said second set of instructions.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:
  - instructions for directing said first processor to:
    - read data from one of said optical storage media stored in said kiosk; and
    - display said data on a display in said kiosk.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:
  - instructions for directing said first processor to:

receive a returned optical media from a user,  
 identify said returned optical media, and  
 transmit identity of said returned optical media to said system  
 server.

4. The system of claim 3 further comprising:  
 an optical reading device.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein said first set of instructions further  
 comprise:  
 instructions for directing said first processor to:  
 read said returned optical media, and  
 detect an error in data stored on said returned media.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein said first set of instructions further  
 comprise:  
 generating a recording indicating said optical storage media  
 contains an error responsive to detection of said error.
7. The system of claim 3 wherein said first set of instructions further  
 comprise:  
 instructions for directing said first processing unit to:  
 receive a signal from said user that said returned optical  
 media contains an error.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein said signal is read from a flag on a  
 casing that is returned with said returned optical media.
9. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
 a plurality of optical storage media each storing data for a  
 particular program;  
 a storage carousel in said kiosk for storing said plurality of  
 optical storage media; and  
 wherein said first instructions further comprise instructions for  
 maintaining an inventory of said plurality of optical storage media  
 stored in said storage carousel.
10. The system of claim 9 wherein said first instructions further comprise:  
 instructions for directing said first processor to:  
 removing a one of said optical storage media from said

inventory responsive to dispensing said one of said plurality of optical storage media.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein said first instructions further comprise: instructions for directing said first processor to:

add a one of said plurality of said optical storage media to said inventory response to receiving said one of said plurality of optical storage media from said user.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein said first instructions further comprise: transmitting an update of said inventory to said second processor responsive to said first processor updating said inventory.

13. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a media polishing mechanism associated with said kiosk.

14. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

an optical reading mechanism in said kiosk ; and

wherein said first set of instructions further comprise instructions for directing said first processor to:

read said optical storage media,

perform an error checking routine on said optical storage media, and

generate an indica of an error on said optical storage media responsive to detecting an error in said optical storage media.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions directing said first processor to:

display a warning to insert said optical media device into said optical polishing media.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first processor to insert said optical storage media in said polishing mechanism responsive to said indica of said error.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said first instructions further comprise:

perform said error checking routine responsive to said optical storage media being polished.

18. The system of claim 1 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to:  
open a transaction responsive to receiving said billing information from said first processing unit.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to:  
receive a message indicating said optical storage media has been returned to said kiosk, and  
close said transaction responsive to receiving said message.

20. The system of claim 1 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to:  
maintain an inventory database of optical storage media in said kiosk.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to:  
provide access to said inventory database to a third processing unit.

22. The system of claim 1 wherein user specified address is an e-mail address.

23. The system of claim 1 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to maintain a user profile of users.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said instructions for directing said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to:  
record each said optical storage media said user requests.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein said second set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said second processor to:

read said user profile,

determine which type of optical storage media said user prefers, and

transmit advertisements for optical storage media of types said users prefer to said kiosk.

26. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

an internet service provider;

a third processor in said internet service provider;

a third set of instructions for directing said third processor to transmit messages between said first processor and said second processor;

a third storage media readable by said third processor for storing said third set of instructions;

wherein said first set of instructions include instructions for directing said first processor to insert data for said second processor in messages, transmit said messages to said third processor, receive messages from said third processor, and read data from said received messages; and

wherein said second set of instructions include instructions for directing said second processor to insert data for said first processor into said messages, transmit said message to said third processors, to receive said messages from said third processor, and remove data from said messages.

27. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

an media identification reader in said kiosk that is operable to detect an identification marking on said optical storage media.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein said first set of instructions include:

instructions for directing said first processor to:

read said identification marking on said optical recording media using said media identification reader, and

identify said optical recording media.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein said first set of instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said first processor to:

maintain a record of a position of said optical recording media in said kiosk based upon said identification of said optical recording media.

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30. The system of 27 wherein said identification marking on said optical recording media includes a concentric marking around a center of said optical storage media.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein said concentric marking is a bar code.

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32. The system of claim 31 wherein said media identification reader is a bar code scanner.

33. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

an optical writing system that writes optical data to said optical recording media;

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wherein said first set of instructions include instructions for directing said first processor to:

transmit a request data to store on said optical storage media to said second processor,

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receive said data from said second processor, and write said data to said optical storage media; and

wherein said second set of instructions include instructions for directing said second processor to:

receive said request for said data, retrieve said data, and

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transmit said data to said first processor.

34. The system of claim 1 wherein said receipt includes advertisements.

35. The system of claim 33 wherein said advertisements are promotions for optical media available at said kiosk.

36. The system of claim 1 wherein said receipt includes a link to a file maintained on an Internet server.

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37. The system of claim 36 wherein said file is a home page.

38. The system of claim 37 wherein said home page includes information about promotions offered by said system.

39. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a casing dispenser that dispensing a casing for said optical media to said user.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein said casing comprises:

a storage compartment for said disk;

a pre-metered stamp to allow said casing to be mailed; and

a preprinted address.

41. The system of claim 39 wherein said casing further includes:

an identifier.

42. The system of claim 41 wherein said kiosk further comprises: a

retrieval slot configured to receive a casing; a

reader proximate said retrieval slot; and

wherein said first set of instructions include instructions for directing said first processor to:

read said identifier from said casing,

determine whether said optical storage media in said casing belongs to said system, and

opening said retrieval slot responsive to a determination that said optical storage media belongs to said system.

43. A method for dispensing optical storage media from a kiosk remote from a system server and communicatively connected to said system server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for an optical storage media and billing information from a user at said kiosk;

transmitting said billing information to said system server for confirmation;

receiving said billing information in said system server;

performing a credit verification routine on a credit account in said billing information with said system server;

transmitting said confirmation from said system server to said kiosk responsive to a verification of credit account;

transmitting an electronic receipt for said transaction to a user specified address received in said billing information;

receiving said confirmation of billing from said central server in said kiosk; and

dispensing said requested optical storage media to said user.

44. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

reading data from said optical storage media stored in said kiosk; and

displaying said data on a display in said kiosk.

45. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a returned optical media from a user in said kiosk;

identifying said returned optical media; and

transmitting an identity of said returned optical media to said system server.

46. The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:

reading data from said returned optical media in said kiosk;

and

detecting an error in data stored on said returned optical media.

47. The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of:

generating a recording indicating said optical storage media contains an error responsive to detection of said error.

48. The method of claim 45 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal from said user that said returned optical media contains an error.

49. The method of claim 48 further comprising the step of:

reading said signal from a flag on a casing that is returned with said returned optical media.

50. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

storing a plurality of optical storage media in said kiosk wherein each of said plurality of optical storage media stores data for a particular program; and

maintaining an inventory of said plurality of optical storage media stored in kiosk.

51. The method of claim 50 further comprising the step of:

removing a one of said optical storage media from said



inventory responsive to dispensing said one of said plurality of optical storage media.

52. The method of claim 50 further comprising the steps of:

adding a one of said plurality of said optical storage media to said inventory response to receiving said one of said plurality of optical storage media in said kiosk from said user.

53. The method of claim 50 further comprising the step of:

transmitting an update of said inventory to said system server responsive to said kiosk updating said inventory.

54. The system of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

providing a media polishing mechanism associated with said kiosk.

55. The system of claim 54 further comprising the step of:

reading said optical storage media;  
performing an error checking routine on said optical storage media; and  
generating an indica of an error on said optical storage media responsive to detecting an error in said optical storage media.

56. The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:

displaying a warning to insert said optical media device into said optical polishing media.

57. The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:

inserting said optical storage media in said polishing mechanism responsive to said indica of said error.

58. The method of claim 57 further comprising the step of:

performing said error checking routine responsive to said optical storage media being polished.

59. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

opening a transaction record in said system server responsive to receiving said billing information.

60. The method of claim 59 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a message from said kiosk to said central server responsive to receiving said optical storage media in said kiosk

wherein said message indicates said optical storage media has been returned to said kiosk;

receiving a message indicating said optical storage media has been returned to said kiosk, and

closing said transaction record responsive to receiving said message.

61. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

maintaining an inventory database of optical storage media in said kiosk at said system server.

62. The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of:

providing access to said inventory database to a user via an Internet connection.

63. The method of claim 43 wherein user specified address is an e-mail address.

64. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

maintaining a user profile of said user in said system server.

65. The method of claim 64 further comprising the step of:

recording each said optical storage media said user requests in said user profile.

66. The method of claim 66 further comprising the steps of:

reading said user profile;

determining which type of optical storage media said user prefers;

transmitting advertisements for optical storage media of types said users prefer to said kiosk; and

displaying said advertisements at said kiosk.

67. The method of 43 claim further comprising the steps of:

generating messages containing information for said system server in said kiosk;

transmitting said messages to Internet service provider;

transmitting said messages from said Internet service provider to said system server;

receiving said messages in said system server; and

reading data from said received messages in said system server.

68. The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting messages containing data for said kiosk from said system server to an Internet service provider;  
receiving said messages in said Internet service provider;  
transmitting said messages from said Internet service provider to said kiosk; and  
removing data from said messages in said kiosk.

69. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

reading an identification marking on said optical recording media using a media identification reader in said kiosk; and  
identifying said optical recording media.

70. The method of claim 69 further comprising the step of:

maintaining a record of a position of said optical recording media in said kiosk based upon said identification of said optical recording media.

71. The method of 70 wherein said step of reading said identification marking on said optical recording media includes:

reading a concentric marking around a center of said optical storage media.

72. The method of claim 71 wherein step of reading said concentric marking includes:

reading a bar code printed concentrically around said optical storage media with a bar code scanner in said kiosk.

73. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:

transmitting a request for data to said system server to said kiosk;  
receiving said data in said kiosk from said system server; and  
writing said data to said optical storage media.

74. The method of claim 73 further comprising the steps of:

receiving said request for said data from said kiosk in said system server;

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retrieving said data; and

transmitting said data from said system server to said kiosk.

75. The method of claim 43 wherein said receipt includes advertisements.

76. The method of claim 43 wherein said advertisements are promotions for optical media available at said kiosk.

77. The method of claim 43 wherein said receipt includes a link to a file maintained on an Internet server.

78. The method of claim 77 wherein said file is a home page.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein said home page includes information about promotions offered by said system.

80. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:  
dispensing a casing for said optical media to said user.

81. The method of claim 80 further comprising the step of:  
stamping said casing with pre-metered postage to allow said casing to be mailed; and  
printing a postal address on said casing.

82. The method of claim 80 further comprising the step of:  
including an identifier on said casing.

83. The method of claim 82 further comprising the steps of:  
reading said identifier from said casing,  
determining whether said optical storage media in said casing belongs to said system, and  
opening a retrieval slot configured to receive said casing responsive to a determination that said optical storage media belongs to said system.